

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPT PASS ALL ARADIPLOMATIC POSTS

MONTEVIDEO FOR AMB BOWDLER

1. SUMMARY: MEXICAN THOUGHTS RE INTER-AMERICAN ORGANIZATION FOR TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY READILY RECONCILABLE WITH THOSE OF US. MEXICANS DEVELOPING NEW CONCEPTS RE FINANCING WHICH DO NOT ATTACH MUCH IMPORTANCE TO SPECIAL FUND. CONACYT OFFICIALS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT IA CODE OF CONDUCT STILL ON FRONT BURNER, VISUALIZING FURTHER DISCUSSION AT SANTIAGO. CONCEPT OF US COORDINATING OFFICE VERY WELL RECEIVED. THEY STRONGLY URGE THAT DATE OF SANTIAGO MEETING BE ADVANCED ONE WEEK TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH OTHER MEETINGS SCHEDULED SAME TIME. NO QUESTION BUT MEXICANS FOUND WIDE-RANGING AND REASONABLY CANDID EXCHANGE OF VIEWS VALUABLE AND THAT THEY WILL HAVE BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON AMBIANCE AT SUBSEQUENT IA MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

2. POLLACK PRESENTED US VIEWS AS PER TALKING POINTS TO BUENO AT HIS HOME IN 3 HOUR PRIVATE DISCUSSION FOLLOWED BY A TETE-A-TETE
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LUNCH. CONVERSATION RESUMED IN CONACYT OFFICES AT 6:30 P.M. WITH

SANTIAGO MEYER PICON, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF FONSECRETARIAT, AND HALF A DOZEN SENIOR CONACYT OFFICIALS INCLUDING MEXICAN PARTICIPANTS IN ALL SUB-GROUP MEETINGS. DISCUSSIONS TERMINATED AFTER MIDNIGHT IN LOCAL RESTAURANT. MEXICANS VERY PLEASED AT OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE THOUGHTS ON STATUS AND PROSPECTS OF WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES AND TO RECEIVE FAIRLY FULL EXPOSITION OF US PERCEPTIONS. LENGTHY AND WIDE RANGE DISCUSSIONS BOTH UNCOVERED AND RESOLVED SOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS. NO QUESTION WHATEVER THAT BUENO IS KEY MEXICAN POLICY FORMULATING OFFICIAL IN THIS PROJECT. SECOND KEY MAN IS ENRIQUE MARTIN DEL CAMPO, CONACYT DIR. OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WHO WILL REPRESENT MEXICO AT SANTIAGO.

3. IN DESCRIBING US THINKING ON ORGANIZATION, POLLACK USED CONCEPT OF A SERIES OF CONCENTRIC CIRCLES SMALLEST OF WHICH WAS REGIONAL, MOVING ON TO LATIN AMERICAN TO INTER-AMERICAN TO INTERNATIONAL, ALL BEING PART OF SAME ORGANIZATION SERVED BY MINIMUM SECRETARIAT. MEXICANS FOUND US SUGGESTION QUITE PALATABLE, AFTER ASSURING THEMSELVES THAT THIS CONCEPT CONTEMPLATED A SEPARATE LATIN AMERICAN FORUM AND ABILITY OF LATINOS TO MEET (WITHOUT US INVOLVEMENT) WITH UN ORGANIZATIONS OR SUPPLIERS OF TECHNOLOGY OTHER THAN US. THEY RETURNED TO THIS POINT SEVERAL TIMES TO REASSURE THEMSELVES THAT US WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO A LATIN AMERICAN FORUM OR LATIN AMERICAN MEETINGS WITH, FOR EXAMPLE, EUROPEANS. POLLACK MADE FREQUENT USE OF WORD "FLEXIBLE" TO DESCRIBE US CONCEPT OF THIS MECHANISM BUT ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO PROVISION FOR INTER-AMERICAN MECHANISM.

4. PRINCIPAL POINT MADE BY BUENO RE ORGANIZATION IS THAT US PROPOSAL ESTABLISHED STRUCTURES WHEREAS MEXICAN THINKING DIRECTED TOWARD A SYSTEM. BY THAT HE APPEARED TO MEAN THAT MEXICANS ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITIES IN TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND ITS REGULATION AND TO DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INTERACTION BETWEEN LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS. THEREFORE, NECESSARY NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS, BUT ALSO FOR INCREASING COOPERATION WITHIN LATIN AMERICA ON S AND T PROJECTS. BUENO RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY TO POLLACK'S ASSERTION THAT SEVERAL HOURS WORK COULD RESULT IN MERGER OF STATE DEPARTMENT AND MEXICAN PAPERS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO APPROACHES, CONFIDENTIAL

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POLLACK CALLED ATTENTION PRINCIPALLY TO REFERENCES IN MEXICAN PAPER TO USE OF VERBS SUCH AS "GUARANTEE" AND "ENSURE" IN DESCRIBING AUTHORITY OF US COORDINATING OFFICE. POLLACK EXPLAINED PROBLEMS POSED BY CONCEPT OF SUCH AUTHORITY EXISTING IN THE NEW US ORGANIZATION. MEXICANS SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT EXPLANATION. THEY WERE PLEASED AT POLLACK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CONTRIBUTION OF MEXICAN PAPER TO US THINKING ON DOMESTIC ORGANIZATION.

5. POLLACK'S EFFORTS TO PIN DOWN NEXT STEPS IN DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIZATION PROPOSAL NOT VERY PRODUCTIVE. MEXICANS SAID THAT THEY WERE WORKING ON REVISIONS OF THEIR PROPOSAL AND THAT THEY WOULD TABLE IT AT SANTIAGO. POLLACK SAID HE FELT SURE THAT US WOULD FURTHER REVISE THEIR PAPER IN LIGHT OF ON-GOING CONSULTATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER US PLANNED TO TABLE IT OR HOLD IT IN RESERVE FOR USE IF NECESSARY. HE SAID US WOULD PREFER TO SEE A SOUND ORGANIZATIONAL PROPOSAL ORIGINATE WITH ONE OF THE LA GOVERNMENTS. MEXICANS EXPRESSED NO POSITION ON RELATIONSHIP OF NEW MECHANISM TO OAS.

6. BUENO STATED THAT MEXICANS ARE NOT SEEKING A FIXED AMOUNT FUND. HIS STAFF HAS BEEN WORKING FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS ON DEVELOPING A FUNDING PRINCIPLE WHICH HE FELT WAS BEST DESCRIBED BY THE WORD RECIPROCITY. HIS EXPLANATION MADE IN THE MORNING AND REPEATED IN THE EVENING WAS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. THE PRINCIPLE SEEMS TO CALL FOR FINANCING TO BE RELATED BOTH TO THE AMOUNT OF EFFORT PUT IN AND THE BENEFITS DERIVED; AND TO BE TIED TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS. NO PAPER YET EXISTS ON THIS CONCEPT ALTHOUGH HE PROMISED TO MAKE IT AND ANY OTHER PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE SANTIAGO MEETING AVAILABLE TO US AS SOON AS THEY ARE PREPARED. BUENO'S VIEWS RE USE OF EXISTING MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR S AND T ACTIVITIES IN LA ARE ESSENTIALLY IDENTICAL TO THOSE IN US TALKING POINT PAPERS.

7. WHEN BUENO MADE REFERENCE TO FURTHER DISCUSSION OF CODE OF CONDUCT AT MEETING IN SANTIAGO, POLLACK REPORTED US PERCEPTION THAT LA GOVERNMENTS HAD DECIDED AT SUB-GROUP III MEETING IN CARACAS TO DROP PURSUIT OF THAT TOPIC IN INTER-AMERICAN FRAMEWORK FOR THE PRESENT IN FAVOR OF UNCTAD FORUM. THIS SEEMED TO TAKE ALL MEXICANS PARTICIPANTS BY SURPRISE AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THEIR UNDERSTANDING VEERS 180 DEGREES FROM THAT OF THE US. POLLACK POINTED OUT REGARDLESS OF WHO WAS CORRECT, THE FACT IS US WORK ON CODE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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CONDUCT IN INTER-AMERICAN FRAMEWORK HAD ESSENTIALLY STOPPED; IT WAS PRACTICALLY CERTAIN THAT US DELEGATION TO SANTIAGO MEETING WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO RESUME USEFUL DISCUSSION; AND IN ANY CASE IT IS NOT REALISTIC TO EXPECT A SUBJECT AS COMPLEX AND FAR-REACHING IN ITS IMPLICATIONS AS A CODE OF CONDUCT TO BE RESOLVED PRIOR TO MFM MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES IN MARCH. POLLACK REMINDED MEXICANS THAT US LISTS SUBJECT OF CODE OF CONDUCT AS A FUNCTION OF PROPOSED COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND THAT WE WOULD EXPECT TO PURSUE IT THERE. HE ALSO URGED THE MEXICANS TO LEND THEIR SUPPORT TO RESTRICTING AGENDA AT SANTIAGO TO MECHANISM, ORGANIZATION AND FINANCING AS PROVIDED BY TERMS OF REFERENCE OF SUB-GROUP IV.

8. IN INTRODUCTORY EXPLANATION OF HIS VISIT, POLLACK EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SUB-GROUP AND WORKING GROUP MEETINGS WOULD BENEFIT GREATLY FROM PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SO PARTICIPANTS COULD

STUDY AND PREPARE FOR ACTUAL ISSUES DISCUSSED. SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION OF THIS LED TO MEXICAN SUGGESTION THAT PARTICIPANTS IN SANTIAGO HELD AN INFORMAL PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING ON FRIDAY OR SATURDAY PRIOR TO SCHEDULED CONFERENCE OPENING. POLLACK DESCRIBED THIS SUGGESTION AS CONSTRUCTIVE AND SAID HE WOULD COMMEND IT TO WASHINGTON.

9. (SEE SEPTTEL RE DATE OF MEETING IN SANTIAGO).

10. COMMENT: MEXICAN APPROACH TO TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES VISITED (VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA) IN TERMS OF DEPTH AND QUALITY OF THOUGHT BEING GIVEN TO THE PROBLEMS AND IN ACTUAL INVESTMENT OF STAFF TIME. FOLLOW-UP BY EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT SHOULD PRODUCE GOOD PROSPECT THAT MEXICANS WILL CARRY POSITIONS TO SANTIAGO WHICH US CAN SUPPORT. VALUE OF RESPONSIBLE BILATERAL DIALOGUE ABUNDANTLY DEMONSTRATED AND DEPARTMENT SHOULD LAY PLANS NOW FOR USE OF EMBASSIES AND SPECIAL EMISSARIES TO ENSURE PRODUCTIVE MEETING IN MONTEVIDEO.

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